



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

www.fcindy.org
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome to your Spiritual Home!

We celebrate being a Just Peace making, Green for care of Creation, and WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church, with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQAAL+ community.

Whether you choose to join us online or in-person, we believe we are called together by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. **We are a place to belong, a place to heal and a place to love.** At First Congregational we recognize God as a loving, creating, all-encompassing Spirit who is not limited by usual human boundaries. Therefore, we practice the use of inclusive, expansive, and non-gendered language when speaking of and to God.

We welcome all who worship with us today and include **all ages** in our hybrid worship service. We invite guests and members to fill out a Welcome/Prayer card found in the pew holder, and put it in the offering plate. Children are invited to play quietly in the “pryground” at the front of the church, or use a “Quiet Bag” found in the Narthex.

***Disclaimer:** Today’s worship service is being live-streamed. While the focus will be on the worship leaders, anything you say or do may be on film. If you have any questions or need to ensure you are not on camera please speak with our minister.

Pastoral Care: Sabbatical Pastors, the Rev. Diane and the Rev. Jerry Zehr will be available for Pastoral care July–October. You can reach them in the following ways

Diane: dianezehr@gmail.com • 317-414-1047

Jerry: Jerryzehr1@gmail.com • 317-551-8455

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (admin) is in office 9-12 on Thursday, meeting with the Zehrs by appointment.

Out of concern for community health, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell.

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Rev. Diane Zehr (she/her), Preacher
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader
Mayflower Singers
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Mechelle Monroe, Liturgist

In worship this Sunday you are invited to write your prayer concerns on the colored index cards in the pew pockets and hand them to either Pastor Diane or Pastor Jerry.

September 17, 2023

11:00 AM

*Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.*

Asterisk () indicates those who choose to may stand in body/spirit.*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

The Grace of God Is Yours

Mark Kelso

INTROIT

The Wonders of God's Love

Mayflower Singers

Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mechelle Monroe

By faith we get up in the morning,
learning from the rising sun how to begin again.

By faith we go out into the day, **courageously asking God to meet us where we are.**

By faith we gather together,
honoring the Divine Light in one another.

By faith we fan the flames of justice—
for we have known the Spirit of Transformation.

Come, let us worship the Faithful One,
the Living God is in our midst.

*SONG OF INVOCATION

Gather Us In (vs. 1,2,4)

(see insert)

*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Acts 10:1-48

Video

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



MESSAGE

Has it ever occurred to you that you might be wrong?

Rev. Diane Zehr

*SONG OF REFLECTION #495

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

New

Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

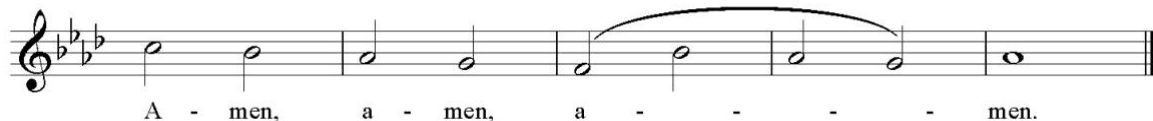
PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (from UCC Book of Worship)

Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Amen

Mayflower Singers



OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Beecher

arr. Baker

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all the love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #192

Carry the Light

Sing! Prayer and Praise

*BENEDICTION

Blessing

BLESSING SONG

Go Make a Diff'rence

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

arr. Baker

Music for Sending Forth

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

Cards to Our Church Family – Please sign the cards on our “card stand”, for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

Food Donations to Northside Pantry – Help those with hunger insecurity by bringing donations of canned or boxed food, and place in the baskets in the Narthex.

The WISE Mental Health Team is seeking input from the congregation's youth and their families (middle school age through high school) about starting a youth group in which there would be opportunities to connect with other youth. Please contact Larry Eckel, 317-445-9351 lspeckel@comcast.net or Sandy Wood 317-225-6206 csjlwood@att.net if interested. Thanks!

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM – Several options are available on Sundays before worship. Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion (upstairs at church). Or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning's singing; all skill levels welcome!

Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays at 5:00pm (Zoom) – This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well-being. Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.



Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant, and the recipients are Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith in Indiana. Gifts of single dollars, or those designed to Covenant Outreach, are divided evenly to these groups, unless otherwise specified. Also, your pledge or undesignated gifts are greatly appreciated to support the mission and ministries funded by First Congregational's operating budget. You can place gifts in the offering plate, mail a check to the church, or give online at www.fcindy.org

Mental Health Support:

The 988 Lifeline: 988 is now active across the United States. (call or text) **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI.ORG):** information and referral services: 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) **The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and www.theTrevorProject.org

THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Tuesday, September 19	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, September 19	3:30 PM	Worship and Faith Board Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 20	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Thur Sept 21- Sat Sept 23		MHCNS Using Mayflower Room
Thursday, September 21	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 21	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, September 22	6:30 PM	Fourth Friday Films at Landmark Keystone
Saturday, September 23	1:00 PM	IKC ONA Discussion
Sunday, September 24	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, September 24	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

Today's Scripture

Acts 10:34-36

So Peter said to them, “I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality—rather, that any person of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. This is the message God has sent...

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.



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